have pursued a murderous campaign against the Kashmiri Pandits in order to establish an Islamic State;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In a hearing of the Asia Pacific Sub-Committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 9, 1995, Congressman Sherrod Brown (Democrat—Ohio) raised the issue of the plight of Kashmiri Pandits who had "suffered so greatly over the years—had been relegated in many ways to refuge status in their own homeland—their problems were more than just being refugees their problems were also human rights abuses". He queried as to why the had not found mention in the State Department's Human Rights report of 1994.

Assistant Secretary Raphel in her response explained that the Kashmiri Pandits were Hindus living in Kashmir, many of whom had left in the early days of the insurgency in 1989-90. Many of them had absorbed themselves into other states in the Indian Union but many were still living in camps in Jammu "in appalling conditions as refugee-camps tend to have". She maintained that the State Department Human Rights report was not a refugee report or an internally displaced persons repor but that the US Administration "would be happy to take under advisement the idea of making a reference to them".

Government have noted that members of the US Congress have begun to appreciate the plight of different secions of the Kashmiri population affected by Pakistan-supported terrorism in Kashmir, and hope that the US Administration would use its influence with Pakistan to bring about an end to such support.

Supply to arms to J and K Militants by Pakistan

431. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in 'Hindustan Times' dated the 10th February, 1995 that US Government is aware of the arms supply by Pakistan to militants operating in J and K;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is in contrary the assurance given by Pak earlier.

(c) whether it is also a fact that some Kashmir leaders have also gone to Saudi Arabia to collect funds for their secessionist activities in that State; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to take or have already taken in these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan's support to terrorism continues unabated despite assurances to the contrary to the Government of India and to the international community.

(c) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(d) Government have strongly urged Pakistan on several occasions and at all levels to stop its support to subversion and terrorism. Government have also apprised the international community of the dangers inherent in the trans-border terrorism. Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to counter terrorists, and will remain vigilant about material, financial or any other support extended from outside quarters in sustenance of activities directed against India.

पटना के पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में भ्रष्टाचार

432. श्री आस मोहम्मद : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पटना के पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार के संबंध में 1-1-94 से 31-10-94 तक कोई शिकायतें मिली हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) प्राप्त शिकायतें पासपोर्टों को जारी करने में हुई असाधारण देरी के सम्बन्ध में थी । आरोप सामान्य किस्म के थे और स्टाफ के किसी सदस्य/अधिकारी विशेष के विरुद्ध उनमें कोई सूचना नहीं थी ।

(ग) सितम्बर, 1994 से पटना कार्यालय में बकाया मामलों की संख्या 27026 से घटकर 2383 हो गई है । 31-1-95 की स्थिति के अनुसार पटना कार्यालय अब 30 दिन में पासपोर्ट जारी कर रहा है ।

Firing by Sri Lankan Navy on Indian Fishermen

433. SHRI VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian fishermen were killed by in firing resorted to by the Sri Lankan Navy during the last three years:

(b) what steps Government have taken to save the life of fishermen since the Sri Lankan Navy indulged in violence without any care for Human Rights; and

(c) whether Government would come forward to censure the Sri Lankan Government for having indulged in such type of violence?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) 25 Indian fishermen are reported to have been killed in firing resorted to by the Sri Lankan Navy during the last three years.

(b) and (c) These incidents have been taken up strongly by the Government of India with the Sri Lanka Government. Bilateral discussions were held at the Foreign Secretary level in October 1993 and again at the official level in March, 1994 to discuss measures for preventing such incidents in future. These measures relate to (i) precautions to be observed by our fishermen; and (ii) steps to be taken by Sri Lankan Navy to avoid harassment of innocent fishermen. While there have been repeated incidents of our fishermen transgressing the International Boundary Line, the Indian side conveyed its concern over incidents of attack on Indian fishermen. Taking note of the seriousness of the situation, both sides agreed on the need for implementing effective measures for resolving problems of Indian fishermen. The issue was also discussed during visits of the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka in April, 1994 and again in December, 1994. The two sides are agreed on continuing the process of bilateral discussions on this subject. Another round of consultations is proposed to take place shortly.

पाकिस्तान में अमरीकी परमाणु परीक्षण निगरानी सुविधा का विनाशकारी प्रभाव

434. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका ने पाकिस्तान में भूमिगत परमाणु परीक्षणों की निगरानी के लिए पाकिस्तानी क्षेत्र में वैज्ञानिक सुविधा स्थापित करने का निर्णय कर लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तान ने परमाणु ऊर्जा का उपयोग करके विध्वंसक हथियार बनाए हैं;